



Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: October 2021

Members of the Gahanna Community:

As 2021 draws to a close and the holiday season is upon us, on behalf of the entire Division of Police I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support you have provided us this past year. As an organization we have faced and overcome a number of challenges over the last two years. We are blessed to have a caring and generous community by our side, working in a trusted partnership, to keep Gahanna a safe city for all to enjoy.

With the new year will come new challenges. We will continue to work on recruiting, hiring and training the best of the best to serve Gahanna. Our efforts are ongoing to achieve accreditation for our agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) – the gold standard of policing. And finally, we will need to develop a long-term solution to our aging facility. The current police facility was originally constructed in 1971 when the Division had 13 employees. In 1992, the building was remodeled, adding a second floor with approximately 2,000 square feet of useable space. At the time the remodel was completed, the Division had 32 employees. Today the Division is staffed with nearly 80 members. We have long outgrown the current facility and the existing footprint is too small to accommodate a growing, modern police organization – not only for today, but 30-50 years into the future. There will be many discussions on charting a path forward that will need valuable input from the members of the community we serve. We will need your help as we embark on the many critical discussions to determine the future of our facility needs.

Once again thank you all for your continued investment in Gahanna and this great organization.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Jeff Spence
Chief of Police

Due to Beggars Night (Thursday, October 28), the last Civic Association meeting for the year will be held at 7 pm Wednesday, October 27.

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Summary of Division Activity for September

Support Services - Communications Center:

- Dispatchers handled 887 9-1-1 calls throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of 4.7 seconds. One text-to-911 message was received.
- 79% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones while 12% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.
- An additional 2,257 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in September.
- 2,749 calls for service were dispatched during the month.



Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/ALI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non- Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	710	556	48	102	3	4.00	80	0	2241	0
February	735	541	78	106	7	4.00	65	0	2141	0
March	732	554	69	104	3	4.00	70	0	2499	4
April	753	594	50	87	6	4.00	71	0	2195	1
May	853	665	75	86	3	5.00	62	1	2468	2
June	875	707	46	93	2	6.00	95	0	2689	3
July	901	718	45	112	15	5.00	76	0	2402	1
August	853	708	53	91	17	5.00	70	0	2464	0
September	887	737	34	102	13	6.00	95	0	2257	1
Total	7299	5780	498	883	69	4.78	684	1	21356	12

-0.88%

% Change
Year-to-Date

Total 9-1-1 Calls

7,299

2021 Year-to-Date

Total 9-1-1 Calls

7,364

2020 Year-to-Date

Total 9-1-1 Calls

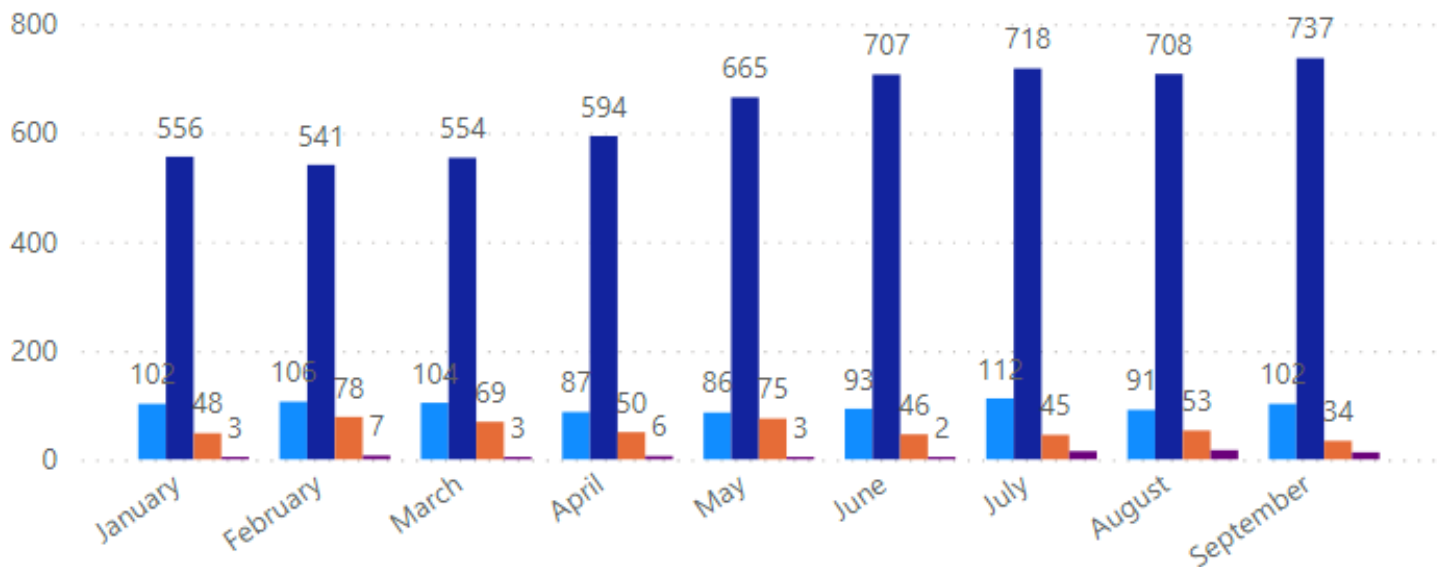
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Summary of Division Activity for September

Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type

● 9-1-1 VoIP ● 9-1-1 Wireless ● 9-1-1 Wireline ● No ANI/ALI



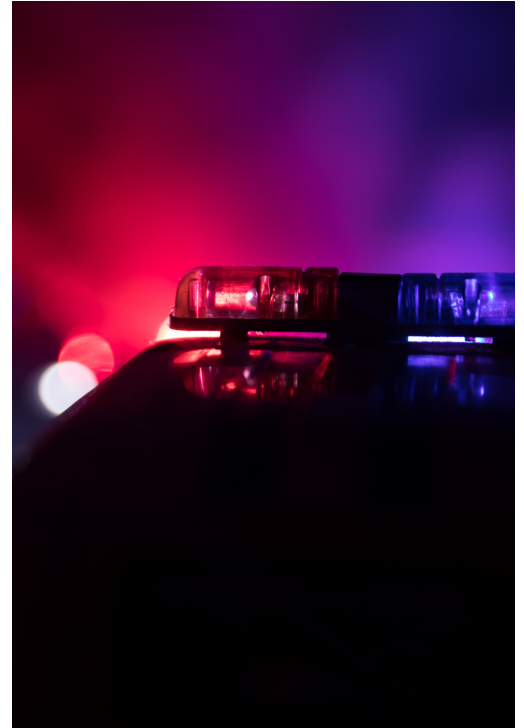
Field Services

~320 offense and arrest reports were generated, including the following incidents by type:

- Four robberies were reported – one arrest was made of a suspect in two robberies of the UDF store on Cherry Bottom Rd. The same suspect was identified in a string of robberies in Columbus the same morning. The same suspect was charged with a similar string of convenience store robberies in July.
- 13 thefts from vehicles were reported in September. Warrants were issued in two cases. Nearly all the thefts occurred from unlocked vehicles.

Field Services (Continued)

- 24 incidents of criminal damaging occurred, including several thefts of catalytic converters from Gahanna's Industrial Park area. Playground equipment at Royal Manor Elementary was damaged with graffiti.
- One burglary was reported during the month.
- Two Breaking & Entering offenses of school facilities were reported with a suspect identified.
- Four vehicles were reported stolen with a warrant issued in one incident.
- Incidents of assaults (no domestic nexus) are as follows:
 - Two aggravated assaults with two arrest warrants issued.
 - Six simple assaults; one warrant issued.
- Domestic-related responses include:
 - 14 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
 - One arrest for Domestic Violence.
 - Four offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
- Drug offenses for the month include:
 - Drug/Narcotics violations – four offense reports; four arrests.
 - Drug equipment violations – one offense report; four arrests.
 - Six overdose responses occurred during the month involving Fentanyl, heroin and/or prescription medications. One overdose resulted in a fatality – a female, age 50.

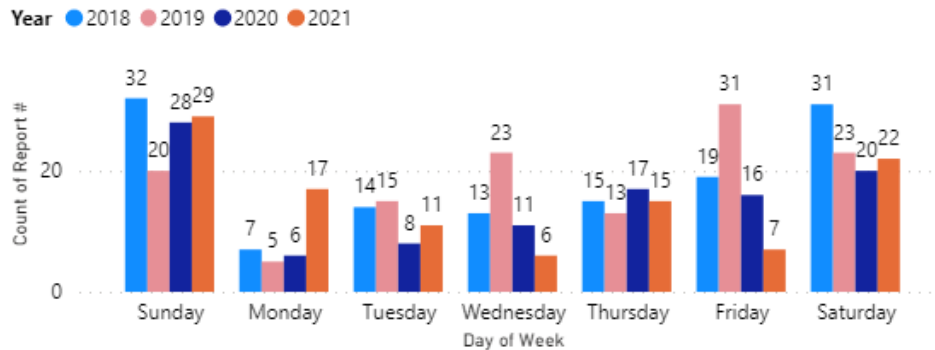


Field Services (continued)

- 22 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Officers conducted 501 self-initiated traffic stops with 218 traffic violators issued citations; nine arrests were made from the stops.
- The Division responded to 52 motor vehicle crashes with a further breakdown as follows:
 - No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
 - One crash was classified as serious injury suspected – 1.92% of reported crashes.
 - Nine crashes were classified as minor injury suspected – 17.3% of crash responses.
 - Four were classified as injury possible – 7.6% of responses.
 - The remaining 38 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 73% of responses.
 - 14 crashes occurred on IR-270 – 26.9% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
 - Three incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 5.7% of crash responses involved a level of impairment.
 - Five commercial vehicles were involved in crashes during the month – 9.6% of crash responses.
 - Distractions were reported in 14 of the 52 crashes.
- Patrol officers affected seven arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
 - Four arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
 - The average blood alcohol content for the remaining arrestees that submitted to testing was .15 or nearly twice the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.
 - Saturday evening into Sunday morning resulted in the highest number of arrests.
 - Year-to-date 107 arrests have been made for impaired driving.

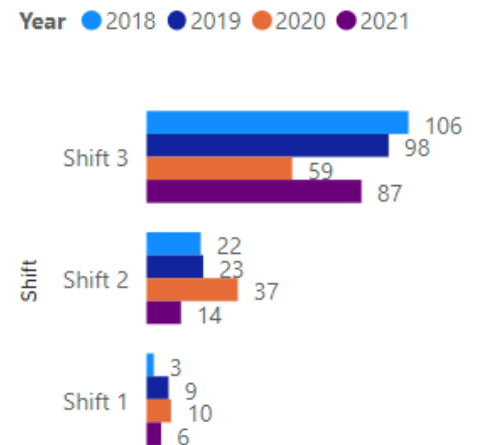
Summary of Division Activity for September

OVI Arrests by Day of Week

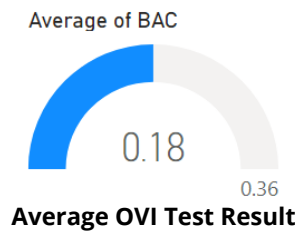
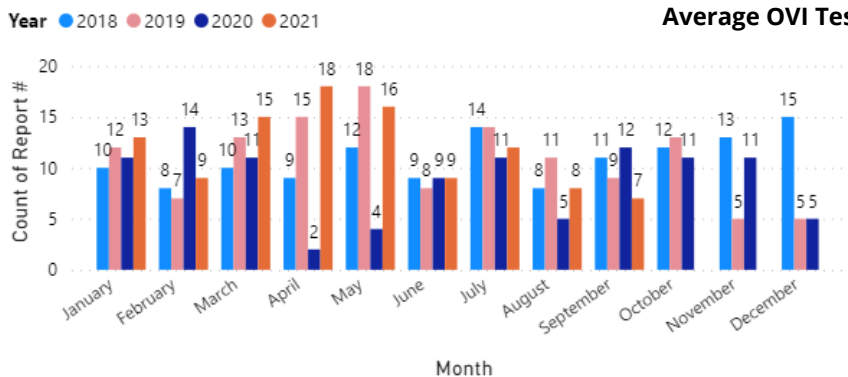


OVI Arrests by Year & Shift

OVI by Year and Shift

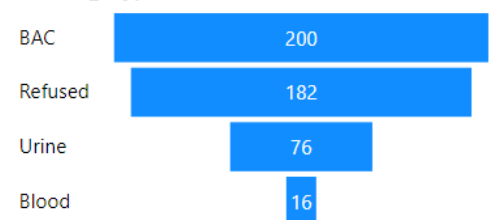


OVI Arrests by Month



OVI Testing Type Total

Testing Type Total



Investigative Services:

- The Division's detectives were assigned 89 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained eight investigative subpoenas and executed seven search warrants during the month.

Homicide Investigation Update



At approximately 8:31 pm October 3, the Gahanna Division of Police received a 9-1-1 call from a resident in the 800 block of Falcon Hunter Way on the report of a shooting. The caller advised someone knocked on his door and upon answering it, a male armed with a handgun tried forcing his way inside the caller's apartment. The reporting party indicated he shot the male suspect and observed a second male suspect flee the area on foot.

Gahanna officers responded to the scene and found two male occupants in the apartment. Police also observed another male on the ground with gunshot wounds to the chest. Gahanna officers performed CPR until relieved by Mifflin Township medics. The male victim was then transported to Mt. Carmel East Hospital, but a short time later, was pronounced deceased.

Detectives are continuing to follow-up on leads related to the case. If you witnessed any activity, or have any information regarding the events of October 3, please contact the Gahanna Division of Police Detectives at 614-342-4240.

ABC 6 on Your Side: <https://abc6onyourside.com/news/local/armed-man-killed-during-attempted-home-invasion-in-gahanna-police-say>

Equipment Tampering at Radio Station Reported

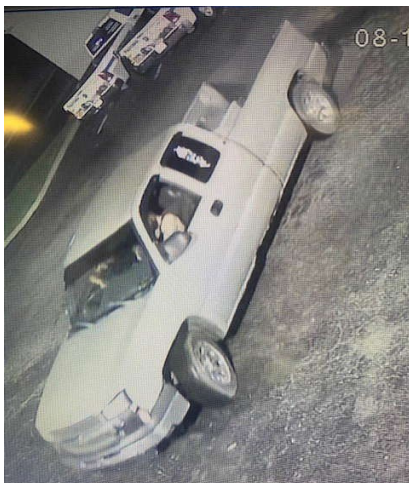


Surveillance image

At approximately 9:40 pm on October 11, the male suspect captured in the surveillance image (left) tampered with grounding cables attached to "The River" (FM 104.9) radio station's tower, located at 881 East Johnstown Road. The same suspect also turned off the building's air conditioning breakers units for an unknown reason. The male is observed on surveillance footage entering the property on foot from the area of Clotts Road. No vehicle can be observed. Although the male suspect caused no damage, it created a disruption to the station's operations.

The same individual is believed to have tampered with equipment on the exterior of another Gahanna business on September 20. A third incident of utility disruption was recently reported.

Industrial Park Catalytic Converter Theft



Surveillance image

In the early morning hours of August 12, a surveillance camera at Fastenal (845 Claycraft Rd. in Gahanna's Industrial Park) captured the suspect and suspect vehicle in the image at left. The suspect is wanted in connection with the theft of a catalytic converter from one of the company's fleet vehicles. Several catalytic converter thefts have occurred over the summer from area businesses.

Speed Monitoring Devices Help Mitigate High Speeds

As part of our roadway safety and speed reduction measures, the Division maintains two Speed Monitoring and Notification Devices (SMND). These radar-equipped trailers, which are primarily used in residential areas, feature a prominent digital display that notifies approaching drivers of their vehicle speed. A series of flashing lights indicate over-limit violations. Solar panels provide power for the SMND, enabling their sustained deployment. This allows them to maintain a continuous mitigation presence, which supplements routine police patrols.



Additionally, each SMND can collect data, including traffic counts (number of vehicles over and under the speed limit), average vehicle speed, and other vehicle speed & volume metrics relative to time of day and day of week. This traffic survey data can then be analyzed to inform the deployment of patrol officers for directed enforcement initiatives.

In 2021, the SMNDs have been deployed for over 240 combined days at 17 residential roadway locations thru September. Together, they've collected speed data on more than 333,000 vehicles. As evidence of their effectiveness in promoting awareness and mitigating high speeds, when the SMND are present, the combined average vehicle speed has been approximately 22 MPH. The combined 85th percentile speed has been approximately 28 MPH, meaning that 85 percent of vehicles were going 28 MPH or less. Traffic surveys are available online at <https://www.gahanna.gov/police/>.

Starfish Assignment: Books & Badges



The Starfish Assignment works to help others while supporting the relationships that law enforcement agencies have with their communities. The program is funded by contributions from the community and businesses.

The "Books & Badges" program enables police officers to read to elementary school students, and *Starfish Assignment* then gives every child a copy of the book the officer reads. These fun events encourage literacy and allow the officers to bond with the kids in their patrol area. The students have the opportunity to ask the officers questions about their jobs and lives. Since December, 2019, the program has donated more than 8,000 books throughout central Ohio.

Since partnering with *The Starfish Assignment* program in May, the Gahanna Division of Police has had multiple readings in both public and private schools. In the last month, Officers Moffitt and Reisinger read to two 4th grade classes at Jefferson Elementary. Officer Hoffman read to another 4th grade class at Jefferson Elementary. The officers shared a few short stories from "*The Truth (and Myths) About Creepy Places*," and distributed a total of 67 books for the students to keep. The Division is looking forward to continuing to schedule readings throughout the school year.

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Trick or Treat Tips

- Trick-or-treat during daylight hours.
- Kids shouldn't go out alone on Halloween.
- Kids shouldn't eat treats until they have been examined.
- Fruit should be cut and closely examined before eating.
- Advise children to never enter strangers' homes.
- Give wrapped homemade treats only to children you know.
- Instruct kids not to stray from their group.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Parents should know what route their children will be taking.
- Costumes should be made of light-colored, fireproof material.
- Children should wear proper fitting, comfortable costumes and shoes.
- Children should always use sidewalks, not the street, for walking.
- Children should look in all directions before crossing the street.





Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE
"To Serve and Protect"



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

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